(b) whether Government have taken any decision to pump in large sums of money to certain Central institutions for higher education in order to increase their intake of students;

(c) Government's decision to reserve 49.5 per cent of the seats for backward communities in Central educational institutions, has to be made to improve its infrastructure; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) To improve the quality in institutions of higher education, the University Grants Commission have introduced three schemes namely (i) Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), (ii) Centre with Potential for Excellence and (iii) Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), with a view to promote quality and Excellence in selected universities/colleges. The Central Government have proposed plan allocation of Rs. 576.00 crores for the year 2007-08 for the phased implementation of reservation for the weaker sections without reducing the unreserved category of seats as provided in the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Dropout rate in schools

1364. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dropout rate in schools between 6 to 11 years has come down from 5.9 per cent in 2005 to 4.1 per cent in 2006 and is one of the best performer of States in the country as per the report of Pratham, a leading NGO;

(b) if so, the details of States which are not performing well and the States that are performing better;

(c) whether the reasons for reduction in the dropout rate in Andhra Pradesh has been studied by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether his Ministry would think of emulating Andhra Pradesh in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2006 facilitated by Pratham, an NGO does not provide the data for drop out rates. However, as per the data available with the Ministry, dropout rates in Classes I-V (age group 6-11 years) has come down from 31.5% in 2003-04 to 29.0% in 2004-05. In Andhra Pradesh, drop-out rates in Classes I-V has come down from 42.6% in 2003-04 to 31.9% in 2004-05. During 2004-05, drop out rates in Classes I-V, was less than the national average in 10 States and 7 UTs, namely, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, A & N Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

Minister's Quota in admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1365. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prescribed norms have been ignored in nomination of 1,200 students in the Kendriya Vidyalayas from Minister's quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Employment oriented education system

†1366. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord importance to employment oriented system keeping in view the needs of changing the present education system as per changing scenario;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.